R E M A R K S

1. Reconsideration and further prosecution of the above-identified application are respectfully requested in view of the discussion that follows. Claims 1-42 are pending in this Application. Claims 1, 2, 15, 16, 29 and 30 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,742,904 to Pinder et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,154,658 to Caci. Claims 3, 17 and 31 have been rejected as being obvious over Pinder et al. in view of Caci and U.S. Patent No. 5,999,965 to Kelly. Claims 4, 5, 18, 19, 32 and 33 have been rejected as being obvious over Pinder et al. in view of Caci, Kelly and U.S. Patent No. 5,901,214 to Shaffer et al. Claims 6, 7, 9-13, 20, 23-27 and 34-41 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but allowable if rewritten in independent form. After a careful review of the claims, it has been concluded that the rejections are in error and the rejections are therefore traversed.

2. Claims 1, 2, 15, 16, 29 and 30 have been rejected as being obvious over Pinder et al. in view of Caci. In particular, the Examiner asserts that

> "Regarding claim 1, 2, 15, 16, 29 and 30, Pinder discloses (Abstract, Figures 2, 4, 5, 6) a communication system that communicates emergency calls via radio communication which includes a subscriber unit operating within a first communication system wherein the subscriber sends a message to a second communication system, whereby the message includes information that identifies the source of the

emergency call, (col. 3, line 24 thru col. 4, line 67) resource controller and emergency resource list for selecting recipients to handle emergency calls based on characteristics about the identified source. However, Pinder is silent on the environment of the call. In analogous art, Caci discloses (Abstract, Fig. 1,
col. 4, line 61, col. 6, line 53 thru col. 8, line 20) a vehicle information and safety control system that
includes communicating public service access point (PSAP) which are 911 calls (public safety calls), (col. 16, line 10-40) 911 calls are patched to an 911 operator, (col. 3, line 49-67, col. 24, line 31-65, col. 9, line 42-63) PSTN linked to a VISC (vehicle information and safety computer) which includes a switched circuit and (Abstract) sensors for determining environment, a GPS is used for depicting location emergency, data base server that holds a map and address information (geographic). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have been motivated to implement determining the environment of a call as taught by Caci with the teachings of Pinder for the purpose of successful communication between 911 caller and 911 operator or resource which would result in successful handling of 911 call.

It is noted first that the claims are limited to the method step of (and apparatus for) "determining a geographic source of the public safety call". In the case of a telephone call, the claimed system may identify the geographic source (e.g., a street address, latitude and longitude, etc.) based upon the use of a Master Street Address Guide (specification, page 5, lines 8-29). In the case of a cellular call, the precise geographic location may be determine from the latitude and longitude of receiving BTSs and by triangulation based on the identity of sectorized antenna and signal strengths (specification, page 9, line 19 to page 10, line 13).

In contrast, Pinder et al. identifies a source of a call for providing support for emergency alarm calls from subscriber units of other service coverage areas. However, identifying a call is not the same as determining the geographic location of a call.

Further, Pinder et al. operates under a fundamentally different principle than that of the claimed invention. For example, Pinder et al. uses an emergency guest identifier that allows a neighbor communication system 140 to identify the home communication system 120 (Pinder et al., col. 3, lines 34-36). In contrast, the claimed invention uses geographic location and environment to identify a responsible public service entity.

Since Prinder et al. uses a guest identifier to identify a home communication system, Prinder et al. would have no reason to determine geographic location. Further, it would be irrelevant to the operating principles of Prinder et al. to determine the geographic location of a source unit.

For example, one of the motivating principles of Prinder et al. is to provide a backup communication system when the home system is "down or otherwise" (Prinder et al., col. 1, lines 31-34) or is otherwise "not available" (Prinder et al., col. 2, line 22). In the case where the home communication system 120 is down for repairs, the geographic location of the subscriber unit 127 is irrelevant. In that case, the neighboring communication system 140 must still necessarily receive and process the message from the

subscriber unit 127 even though the subscriber unit 127 is in the coverage area of the home communication system 120.

It is noted next that Caci is also of no help with regard to the claimed step (and apparatus for) of "determining a geographic source of the public safety call". On a first level, a "public safety call" would, by definition, be a call directed to a public safety agency. In contrast, Caci is directed to a vehicle information and safety control system. Instead of providing a telephone in the vehicle 10 for placing public safety calls, Caci relies upon a Vehicle Information and Safety Computer (VISC) system that uses "a combination of virtual private wireline network and wireless network" (Caci, col. 6, lines 53-60).

Since any information from a Caci vehicle 10 would necessarily be over the private network to the corporate mainframe computer 1 and then to the telephone network 2, the only public safety call involved in the Caci system would be between the corporate mainframe computer 1 and the PSAP 5. As such, the geographic source of any public safety call would be from the mainframe computer itself, not the vehicle. Since there is no determination (or reason to determine) the location of the corporate mainframe computer, Caci clearly lacks the claim element of "determining a geographic source of the public safety call".

It is noted next that Caci does not teach or suggest the claim element of "determining an environment of the geographic

source of the public safety call". This is true, on a first level, because any public safety call from the Caci system would be from the corporate mainframe computer 1, not the vehicle.

Further, even assuming arguendo, that there was a call from the vehicle 10 (which there is not), there is still no determination of the environment of the geographic source. At best, Caci may provide a determination of the condition of the vehicle or identify the chemicals or other hazards within the vehicle, but Caci certainly does not (and cannot) provide any determination of the environment of the geographic source of the call, in any real sense.

In is noted next that the modification of Pinder et al. proposed by the Examiner is believed to be improper. For example, Pinder et al. clearly allows for the reception of emergency calls by a neighbor communication system from the service coverage area of the home communication system. In contrast, the claimed invention is directed to identification of a resource to handle the public safety call based upon the geographic source of the call. Since the modification would alter an essential principle of Pinder et al., the combination is improper (see MPEP §2143.01).

3. Claims 3, 17 and 31 have been rejected as being obvious over Pinder et al. in view of Caci and Kelly. However, Kelly (as with Pinder et al. and Caci) also fails to provide any teaching or

suggestion of the steps of (or apparatus for) "determining a geographic source of the public safety call; determining an environment of the geographic source of the public safety call". Since the combination of Pinder et al., Caci and Kelly fail to teach or suggest, inter alia, these elements, the combination fails to teach each and every element of the claimed invention. Since the combination fails to teach or suggest each and every element, the rejection is believed to be improper and should be withdrawn.

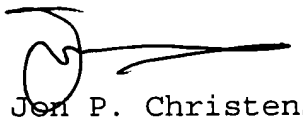
4. Claims 4, 5, 18, 19, 32 and 33 have been rejected as being obvious over Pinder et al. in view of Caci, Kelly and Shaffer et al. However, Shaffer et al. (as with Pinder et al. and Caci) also fails to provide any teaching or suggestion of the steps of (or apparatus for) "determining a geographic source of the public safety call; determining an environment of the geographic source of the public safety call". Since the combination of Pinder et al., Caci and Shaffer et al. fails to teach or suggest, inter alia, these elements, the combination fails to teach each and every element of the claimed invention. Since the combination fails to teach or suggest each and every element, the rejection is believed to be improper and should be withdrawn.

5. Allowance of claims 1-42, as now presented, is believed to be in order and such action is earnestly solicited. Should the

Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of the subject application, he is respectfully requested to telephone applicant's undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

WELSH & KATZ, LTD.

By 
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